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## Invisible Weapons in a Secret War

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*The Craft of Intelligence*, by Allen Dulles (Harper & Row, 277 pp. \$4.95), examines the activities of that little-known cluster of agencies referred to in Washington as "the intelligence community." Warren Walker is dean of humanities at Parsons College.

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BY WARREN WALKER

ALTHOUGH the Cold War enlists the services of nearly 100,000 employees, with an annual budget of well over \$2 billion, it is a secret war, and, for most of the American public, has remained for almost two decades an all but invisible engagement. What are our objectives in the Cold War? Who are the people responsible for its management? What are the techniques and weapons employed? Are we winning or losing? These are some of the questions that Allen Dulles tries to answer in *The Craft of Intelligence*.

The title is infelicitous, for it suggests just another of the scores of books that have already elaborated upon the art of spying, whereas Dulles goes beyond the

descriptive to the interpretive and evaluative, and relates intelligence activities to the achievement of our national purpose. That he is the man eminently qualified to undertake such a task is, for this reviewer, beyond a shadow of doubt. Mr. Dulles culminated his lengthy public service as diplomat and espionage officer by serving for eleven years with the CIA, the last nine (1953-1961) as its director; his overview of intelligence is shared by no one.

Although several chapters are devoted to a brief history of espionage and to an introduction to some of its notable figures, Dulles's book is essentially the story of the Central Intelligence Agency from the time of its creation in 1947 to the present. As the only intelligence organization that has no vested political or military interest (with inevitable commitments to specific policies or particular types of hardware), the CIA is properly viewed as the keystone of our whole intelligence structure in Washington.

Faced for the first time by an adversary with sufficient military power to launch a heavily destructive attack on the United States itself, we can insure our survival only if we know what goes on behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains. Faced also by a continuous undercover campaign by the communists, a coordinated program of infiltration and subversion, we must be apprised of their maneuvers everywhere on the globe and be prepared to parry each political and economic thrust against the free but weak nations. The major function of the CIA, in an era of coexistence that is anything but peaceful, is the collection and processing of data (from its own sources as well as those of other agencies) in order to provide the President with reliable information about enemy activity behind the international scene.

The CIA's secondary role, of increasing importance, is its covert work to help implement the foreign policy evolved by the Chief Executive and the State Department; how well it has frequently played this part is attested by communist debacles in Greece, Turkey, Iran, Guatemala, and the Congo.

ONE of the valuable services Mr. Dulles performs is to dispel myths about American intelligence efforts that have grown during recent years. Some of these have been planted by hostile propaganda; others have been spawned by the lack of public enlightenment and the resultant suspicion of the unknown. The most damaging of these myths, according to Mr. Dulles, pictures the CIA as a policy-making body, and one often in conflict with the Administration.

The facts are that the CIA has never carried out any action of a political nature, given any support of any nature to any persons, potentates, or movements, political or otherwise, without appropriate approval at a higher political level in our government outside the CIA.

For many readers perhaps the most controversial sections of *The Craft of Intelligence* will be those dealing with the means of maintaining the security of classified information. How to prevent the wholesale give-away of valuable knowledge without violating the First Amendment is one of the dilemmas of counter-intelligence work in a democracy.

Allen Dulles is too intent in this volume "to put intelligence in our free society in its proper perspective" to include any now-it-can-be-told titillation, though even the casual reader can infer a number of untold pieces of melodrama. One of the most obvious is CIA's scooping of Khrushchev's anti-Stalin speech for the Twentieth Party Congress in 1956 before it was published anywhere in the USSR. Today's spy fiction may look pale tomorrow when the facts of such colorful episodes can be revealed.